

## MIDWAY MEDICINE?

Like all frontier towns, Midway existed by faith, good fortune, and a bag full of "home cures", administered by faithful mothers and midwives. One of the most interesting remedies widely used in this area, was Snake Oil! That's right, good old fashioned RATTLESNAKE OIL!

In light of modern medicine miracles, it might cause a smile to appear on one's lips, but with the great harvest of rattlesnakes up Snake Creek Canyon (the location of the Wasatch State Golf Course), snake medicine was not only used, but retailed to the city folk in Salt Lake, Provo, and many other towns within merchandising range.

Consider, if you will before judging our Midway ancestors remedies, the following true story from the life of Clifford L. Provost:

Clifford was born in Midway, August 5, 1908, and as a young teenager, (note this is as recent as following World War I), suffered a severe hearing loss, with continued deterioration, resulting in a total loss of hearing for a period of one year. "Some one told his mother to render the fat of a rattlesnake and drop it in his ears. She did this and (also due to his great faith), he was healed and his hearing was restored." Maybe we don't know everything yet!

## OLD HOME REMEDIES

**HEADACHES:** Soak a cloth with ice cold vinegar and pepper and place on the forehead. Renew often. Tie a flour sack around the head. Use a poultice of ground horseradish. Apply ice cold rags. Rub liniment on the forehead and sides of face.

**EARACHE:** Dissolve salt in lukewarm water and pour into ear. This dissolves wax which is causing pain. Hold head close to a lamp. Put warmed castor oil or sweet oil into ear and stuff with cotton. Bake an onion thoroughly. Peel off outer layers and keep just the heart. Put this deep into the ear and cover with a warm cloth.

**HEART TROUBLE:** Eat garlic, cooked or raw. Take root of bleeding heart flower, break it up and make a tea and drink it.

**TOOTHACHE:** Put vanilla flavoring on the tooth. It will kill the nerve. Bathe tooth with hot whiskey. Put a hot pan on your head.

**WARTS:** Put milkweed juice on it everyday, for two weeks. Tie a horsehair around wart. Rub warts with the skin of a chicken gizzard, then hide the skin under a rock. Warts will disappear. Wet finger and make a cross on wart. Cause the wart to bleed. Let a few drops fall on an old sock. Bury it and the wart will disappear.

**STOMACH TROUBLE:** Remove skin from the inside of a rooster gizzard. Dry slowly in oven and mash into a powder. Mix with elderberry wine and drink. Drink kraut juice left over from cooking. To settle your stomach, grind up some apple tree leaves and place in a rag. Put rag on your stomach.

**WORMS:** Worms hate garlic so eat a bulb everyday. Sugar and turpentine will rid a person of worms. Bake the shell of a hen's egg until it is brittle, then pulverize and mix with syrup. The particles will cut the worms into pieces.

## MEDICINE

Midway has produced four medical doctors, namely, Dr. John Gerber, an early pioneer; Dr. John Edwin Morton, Dr. Reed Abplanalp Alder and Dr. Brice Wilson. Lois Bonner and Emily Zenger are registered nurses, while Carmen Kohler is a laboratory technician. Those engaged in practical nursing include Mary Gerber, Margaret Brach, Margaret Watkins, Cordelia Wilson, Margaret Clayburn Kelly, Winona Epperson, Burnice Bonner and Leah Houtz.

*Ross Jensen*

598

*Brent S Eichers - Medical Detail man for  
882 No River Road Midway*

John Murri Jr. = Mortician, watermaster

JOHN MURRI JR., AND  
MARY ANN HASLER



John Murri Jr., son of Johannes Murri Sr., and Anna Speicher Murri. Born March 4, 1858, in Switzerland. Married Mary Ann Hasler. Died August 26, 1926, in Midway.

Mary Ann Hasler, daughter of Fredrick Hasler Sr., and Margaretha Abegglen Hasler. Born December 2, 1863, in Switzerland. Died November 10, 1925, in Midway.

John Jr. married Mary Ann Hasler and they reared a large family. Their families immigrated in the same company and on the same trip. John Jr. was a lad of fifteen and Mary Ann a child of ten years. Midway was the family home until 1927.

John Jr. was active in developing irrigation, and acted as the manager of the Midway Water Works Co., for many years. He helped to acquire the water from "Indian Springs" for the use of sprinkling in Midway Cemetery and laid the first pipe line into the cemetery.

John Jr. acted as a mortician for the people of Midway and also cared for the sick, until it became possible to get professional help.

p 768

✓ BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

He helped care for and bury children in many Midway families who were stricken with diphtheria. His services were always given freely and without charge to all who needed him.

Children of John and Mary Ann Hasler Murri:

John H., married (1) Helena Roberts. (2) Luella Panter;

Fredrick Laurence, married Margaret Walker;

William Charles, married Leciell Carlile;

Frank Herbert, married Ethel Barnes;

Mrs. Monroe (Margaretha Adell) Hair;

Mrs. Claude (Ella Louise) Davis, later married Ethan Duke;

Mrs. Maurice (Mary Ann) Cluff;

Mrs. Bliss (Leda Elizabeth) Titus;

Ruby Anna, died in youth;

Gladys Louise, died in youth. p. 768

Robert  
Book  
Montgomery  
Laid out  
dead  
it's many  
did